

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An air-vented closure assembly for a fluid container comprising:

a valve body having a docking member for connecting the closure to the container, the valve body having a first conduit and a second conduit extending longitudinally therein, the first conduit is adapted for conveying liquid and has a first liquid inlet and a first liquid outlet, the second conduit is adapted for conveying air and has a first air inlet and a first air outlet;

a generally cylindrical mounting sleeve connected to the valve body having a fluid channel and a longitudinal axis therethrough extending transverse to the first and second conduits, the mounting sleeve having a first opening and a second opening at opposed ends and a third opening intermediate the first opening and the second opening; and,

a valve element having a generally cylindrical wall positioned coaxially within the fluid channel and having opposed first and second ends with a second liquid outlet at the first end and a second air inlet at the second end and a third opening intermediate the first and second ends, the valve element being mounted for rotational movement about the axis and reciprocating movement along the axis from a closed position where no liquid flows through the first conduit to an open position where the third opening is in fluid communication with the second conduit where liquid can flow through the first conduit and air can flow through the second conduit.

2. (Original) The closure of claim 1 wherein the first conduit extends in a first direction parallel to the second conduit.

3. (Previously presented) The closure of claim 2 wherein the valve element is mounted for reciprocating movement in a second direction.

4. (Original) The closure of claim 3 wherein the second direction is transverse to the first direction.

Appl. No. 10/591,493
Amdt. Dated March 27, 2009
Reply to Office action of February 10, 2009

5. (Previously presented) The closure of claim 4 wherein the valve element has an axis and is moveable in the second direction upon rotation of the valve element about the axis.
6. (Previously Presented) The closure of claim 5 wherein the valve element has a generally cylindrically shaped side wall dimensioned so as to abut an inner surface of the mounting sleeve.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously presented) The closure of claim 6 wherein the cylindrically shaped wall has a top wall having a portion removed to define the second air inlet.
9. (Previously presented) The closure of claim 8 wherein the second air inlet is centrally disposed on the top wall.
10. (Currently Amended) The closure of claim 8 wherein the cylindrically shaped wall has a solid continuous top wall and has a portion removed from the cylindrical wall proximate the top wall to define the second air inlet.
11. (Currently Amended) The closure of claim 8 wherein the second end of the cylindrical wall has a reduced diameter portion compared to the first end of the cylindrical wall.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Previously presented) The closure of claim 1 wherein the mounting sleeve has a spirally extending groove and the cylindrically shaped wall has a peg fitting into the groove so that rotation of the wall causes movement of the wall along the axis.
14. (Previously presented) The closure of claim 13 wherein the cylindrically shaped wall blocks the flow of liquid from the first liquid outlet when the member is in the closed position by sealing off the first liquid outlet.

15. (Previously presented) The closure of claim 14 wherein in the open position the second air outlet is in alignment with the first air inlet and the wall does not block the first liquid outlet.

16–32 (Canceled).

33. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 13 wherein the mounting sleeve wall has a thickness and an interior surface and wherein the groove extends through a portion of the thickness.

34. (Original) The assembly of claim 33 wherein the groove extends through less than 98% of the thickness of the sleeve wall.

35. (Original) The assembly of claim 34 wherein the groove extends through the entire thickness of the sleeve wall.

36. (Original) The assembly of claim 35 wherein the valve body has a first peg extending from the wall and is mounted in the first groove.

37. (Original) The assembly of claim 35 further comprising a second spirally extending groove on the sleeve circumferentially spaced from the first groove and a second peg on the wall is mounted in the second groove.

38. (Original) The assembly of claim 36 wherein when the valve body is in the closed position the first peg is positioned at a first end of the first groove and when the valve body is in the open position the first peg is in the second end of the first groove.

39. (Original) The assembly of claim 38 wherein the first groove has a protuberance proximate the first end which engages the first peg when the valve body is in the closed position.

40. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 33 wherein the mounting sleeve has a liquid

output spout formed at one end, the spout has an inner surface having a first taper portion defining a first reduced inner diameter portion.

41. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 40 wherein the valve member has an outer surface having a second taper portion defining a second reduced outer diameter portion at one end thereof, the second taper portion being concentrically positioned within the first taper portion when the valve body is in the closed position.
42. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 28 15 wherein the ~~second air outlet~~ third opening has a shape selected from the group consisting of circular, semi-circular, oval, polygonal, irregular or amorphous.
43. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 42 wherein the ~~second air outlet~~ third opening comprises a plurality of sub-outlets.
44. (Original) The assembly of claim 43 wherein each of the sub-outlets have a shape selected from the group consisting of circular, semi-circular, oval, polygonal, irregular or amorphous.
45. (Original) The assembly of claim 43 wherein the sub-outlet is circular.
46. (Original) The assembly of claim 44 wherein the sub-outlets form a pattern.
47. (Original) The assembly of claim 46 wherein the pattern is selected from the group consisting of circular, semi-circular, oval, polygonal, irregular or amorphous.
48. (Original) The assembly of claim 46 wherein the pattern is a triangle.
49. (Original) The assembly of claim 48 wherein the triangle is an equilateral triangle.